



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, Texas 75202 - 2733

11 OCT 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the environmental review regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and the implementing environmental review procedures at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act", the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and is exempt from further environmental review.

The Mountain Valley/Village Creek Drainage Improvements
Proposed by the City of Joshua
Located in Johnson County, Texas

Estimated EPA Share: \$ 675,083.00
Estimated Local Share: \$ 552,339.00

BACKGROUND

The City of Joshua (City) is a growing community located in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. With this growth comes the need to curtail and mitigate increased threats to the environment, and to the public welfare of the City's residents. The majority of the City drains into the headwaters of Village Creek. This creek serves as a major tributary to Lake Arlington, one of the primary sources of drinking water for much of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Pollutants that enter Village Creek in Joshua eventually enter Lake Arlington. Additionally, the creek has experienced significant erosion and sloughing often resulting in conditions that are hazardous to Joshua's citizens.

During moderate to heavy rainfall, the City experiences street closures, flooding, and erosion causing unsafe conditions for the residents. The need for the proposed projects is to provide the City with adequate water drainage infrastructure to protect public health and to protect and preserve the natural resources within the area. The purpose of the project is to replace the corrugated pipe culverts with concrete culverts to avoid rusting and washing out. Some of the culverts will be round, but most will be box culverts for increased stability and better water flow. Roadway crossings will be better suited to handle the increased water flows without bringing the water over the roadway.

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The "No Action" alternative was considered as an environmental baseline. However, this alternative does not fully meet the purpose and need for the proposed projects. Under the "No Action" alternative, the deteriorating culverts would remain as is and would not meet the current and future demands for the City's drainage system, and would negatively impact the area both economically and socially. Additionally, due to the age and condition of the culverts, there are other ongoing problems such as drainage overflows, which could result in environmental and health issues. Thus, the "No Action" alternative is neither reasonable nor feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is collectively titled "The Mountain Valley/Village Creek Drainage Improvements" and is comprised of eight projects. A short description of these 8 projects follows below:

Project 1 - Oakhill Culvert Replacement: The failed culverts will be removed and replaced with newer culverts of equal or greater hydraulic conveyance capacity.

Project 2 - Edgehill Outfall Reconstruction: It consists of the removal of the failed culverts and replacement with newer culverts of equal or greater hydraulic conveyance capacity. Also, the project proposes to reconstruct the failed roadway embankment and pavement surface.

Projects 3, 4, and 5 - Country Club Outfall: The failed culverts will be removed and replaced with newer culverts of equal or greater hydraulic conveyance capacity. These projects will also redefine the channels to reduce sediment runoff.

Projects 6, 7, and 8 - Mountain Valley Outfalls: The drainage channels will be redefined and the failed pipes will be replaced.

The project setting is within previously disturbed urban areas with three vegetation communities consisting of unmaintained grassland, forested riparian corridor, and urban land within the project areas. A majority of the project corridor lies near/on previously disturbed land. The project area does not contain any federal or state parks, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, or historic sites. There would be minor, temporary impacts due to construction activities and all impacted areas will be revegetated and restored to pre-construction contours.

There will be no property acquisition involved in the overall project and no persons, houses, or business will be displaced because of these projects.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

In accordance with NEPA, the proposed project was reviewed for environmental impacts. The review process determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts should result from implementation of the proposed project, and that the project qualifies for the issuance of a CE. The proposed action will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with


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any other federal, state, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and may be exempted from environmental review under NEPA. No adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, floodplain, wetlands, prime farmlands or aquifer recharge zones were identified. There are no Environmental Justice concerns with the proposed project since all residents in the area will benefit equally from the infrastructure improvements.

APPROVAL

The request for the issuance of a CE is approved. This approval will be revoked if at any time the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project.

Responsible Official,


For Stephen A. Gilrein, P.E.
Acting Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

cc: Joe Hollarn, Mayor
City of Joshua

Mike Peacock, Assistant City Manager
City of Joshua

Kevin Patterson, Executive Administrator
Texas Water Development Board